

# WRESTLING FORUM

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VOLUME II

ISSUE 11

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## TITLE EXCHANGE ISSUE

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## WHAT'S SHAKIN'???

Most of Illinois if you were around last Wednesday night...we pretended this was California and had ourselves an earthquake which a good portion of our readers may have felt. Other than that, not a whole lot going on...

WELCOME! One and all to issue #11 of our second year. To those of you who are receiving Wrestling Forum for the first time, let us introduce ourselves...we are a twice a month bulletin covering the wrestling scene in just a slightly different way. We publish on the 15th and 30th of each month with the actual mailing taking place the following day. If you'd like to subscribe, the procedure is pretty simple...just send money. Wrestling Forum cost just \$1.25 per issue and is available in how ever many issues you want up to twelve (or six months). All subscriptions and correspondence should be sent to me (Jon Gallagher) here in Knoxville at the return address on the outside.

These first two pages are usually taken up by my ramblings, just more less to set the tone for the news to come. They also contain information about things we've talked about in past issues and have no where else to put.

Like the Quiz Book. A few issues back, I asked if you'd prefer we do it as a contest, or just as a book. The response was heavily in favor as doing it as a book, complete with answers and having about 500-1000 questions. As you like it (That would make a good name for a play). I will continue working on the book form and should have it finished in about two to three weeks.

Then there's the tournament that we have going... Sean Grande, our New York guy is in charge of that. We've drawn up some brackets with different wrestlers, and you get to decide the winners. All matches are imaginary, of course, but your picking of the winners is what determines the winners. We're already in to round number two and the deadline for voting is JUNE 24TH, so as soon as you get done reading, please get your votes onto a postcard and in the mail to Sean. As an added incentive to cast votes we will be giving away some prizes including a 1987 yearbook when published. To enter the contest requires your vote. For each round you vote in, you get one entry into the drawing. Here

are the imaginary matches to vote on (Heels are listed in CAPITAL LETTERS): RIC FLAIR vs Jim garvin...DUSTY RHODES vs Kevin Von Erich...Nobuhiko Takada vs HERCULES... Steve Williams vs PAUL ORNDORFF...Riki Choshu vs JAKE ROBERTS...Nick Boxkwinkel vs LEX LUGER...BUTCH REED vs Tito Santana...Tatsumi Fujinami vs ONE MAN GANG... TED DIBIASE vs Chavo Guerrero...Rick Martel vs BUZZ SAWYER...HARLEY RACE vs Rick Rude...Dynamite Kid vs ARN ANDERSON...AKIRA MAEDA Vs Bad News Allen...Hulk Hogan vs Keiji Mutoh...BRUISER BRODY VS Sam Houston... ANTONIO INOKI vs Road Warrior Animal...Terry Taylor vs ADRIAN ADONIS...Terry Gordy vs DINO BRAVO...Terry Funk vs DAVID SHULTZ...Genichiro Tenyru vs MANNY FERNANDEZ...Jumbo Tsruta vs BOBBY EATON...Yoshiaki Yatsu vs IVAN KOLOFF...Rick Steamboat vs COL DEBEERS...Jerry Lawler vs HONKY TONK MAN...TULLY BLANCHARD vs RIP OLIVER...Barry Windham vs MIKE MILLER...BRET HART vs Micheal Hayes...JIm Duggan vs ROAD WARRIOR HAWK... NIKITA KOLOFF vs Ron Garvin...STAN HANSEN vs Kengo Kimura. The winners will advance to round three. send your votes to: SEAN GRANDE, 10 WATERSIDE PLAZA #26A, NEW YORK, NY 10010. Remember, the only way to have a chance at winning is by voting.

As for job prospect (for those of you following the continuing saga of the unemployed newsletter editor) there is no further word. I have set July 31 as a deadline for finding employment (the state of Illinois has set Oct. 15 as a deadline) and I want to beat that.

Locally, the WWF is promoting in Springfield tonight (6-15) and Peoria again in a few days (not sure of the date), and a local TV station in Peoria is now carrying Pro Wrestling this Week, so we're really starting to move up in the world (first an earthquake, now PWTW...what more can you ask for).

Last issue I mentioned that my father was having the same surgery that Superstar Graham had (he ended up not having it but that's a LOOONNNGGGG story) and I said that the doctor had said that Dad would n't be able to walk for a year. That's what Dad told me. I talked to the doctor and the doc said that was true IF he had BOTH hips replaced. With just one hip being done, normal walking should resume within a month! Since Superstar had the sugery six months ago...I'm not so impressed anymore.

Enough of this stuff...let's find some real news...

## AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

The bad news is...the Rockers DIDN'T take Larry Nelson with them when they left.

I pinched myself, I ran into the bathroom and splashed cold water on my face, I even went back and watched the tape I made of the show to make sure it wasn't just a dream...I actually sorta liked how they ended up handling the controversy surrounding the title change. I still think the way they switched the title was a bunch of garbage, but they devoted almost an entire ESPN show to the change and the controversy around it.

They let the regular squash matches air as usual, but in between they had interviews with Nick Bockwinkel, Larry Zbyszko, and Greg Gagne along with a little different angle of Larry "handing" something to Curt. You still couldn't tell anything, but the thing that surprised me was the interviews. Nick was as good as always, but this is the first time I've ever heard him swearing revenge as a face. Larry Z, who can give a good interview when he wants to (trouble is he doesn't want to a lot of the time) evidently wanted to this time. Even Greg Gagne's interview (even though it may have stretched the truth a little) was excellent.

They have a new guy under a mask calling himself the "Terrorist" and he's supposedly from South Africa. From the looks of things, they want you to think he's Col. DeBeers (who they say has been suspended). Joe Pedicino even said on Pro Wrestling This Week that he thought it was DeBeers. It's not. I don't know who it is, but they guy under the hood is flat lousy.

Got my first look at What's His Name Ustinov... you know, the Russian who is now one half of the tag team champs via the defection of the Midnight Rockers? I haven't seen him wrestle yet (and from some reports I gotten that may be my good fortune), but what amazes me is the fact that THIS RUSSIAN HAS HAIR! I don't know where someone ever got the idea that Russians should be shaved bald, but it's a concept that's sure stuck around.

Wahoo McDaniel has been announced as coming in. As I understand it he will handle some of the booking in the midwest and on the west coast (as if they have more territory than just that, right?).

The last two ESPN shows have acknowledged the Rockers' title loss (which means the AWA also knew about their



departure since that's the only reason they dropped the straps in the first place), and yet they continue to show their matches. Now I ask you...what kind of a promotion gives a push to a team that left for the competition? And to top that off, the Rockers look extremely good in both matches. The last match was against Ninja (Steve Olsonoski) and Super Ninja (Shunji Takano) and they looked super getting a pinfall victory. Again, the Rockers will be a devastating loss to Verne.

Speaking of Takano, he had a super match against a jobber named Collins a couple of weeks back. This guy throws one of the nastiest drop kicks you'll ever want to see. By best estimate, Takano is about 6' 2 or so, and it looks like he goes perfectly parallel when he does it. During the match, Collins got hit with three drop kicks total, with one coming off the ropes. Jim Brunzell could learn from this man.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: Has to go to Jake the Snake Milliman. He and a partner were scheduled against the Rockers when Sean Micheals came to the ring sporting a freshly grown beard (you have to understand that saying "Sean Micheals grew a beard" is what is called an oxie-moron...words that are mutually exclusive like Jumbo Shrimp, military intelligence, and Cub Highlights). Anyway, Jake pointed at him and said, "Hey! He's trying to look like Larry Nelson!". I guess you had to be there.

Curt Hennig is refusing to defend his newly acquired belt against...well, just about everyone. Nick Bockwinkel doesn't qualify according to Curt, and neither does GregGagne. As for Jimmy Snuka, well, Curt says, "he's on the bottom of the list and will have to work his way up." My question: Who the heck is even on the list?!?!?

Things may be a little slow coming out of here in the future...my source from here has never been real reliable just due to the way information leaks out. My source has just informed me that he will no longer be able to get me info, so if any of you out there that work for Verne want to drive him nuts (figuring out how we get stuff), let me know...the position is open.

TOP TITLE REIGNS  
by Sean Grande

A year ago, Sean put together this list for Wrestling Forum. It originally appeared in our May 30, 1986 issue. He's updated it for us now with figures good through June 15, 1987. A few notes first. The NWA title is as of 1936 with Everette Marshall (first time exact records were kept), the AWA as of 1963 with Verne Gagne as the first champion, and the WWF as of 1963 with Buddy Rogers as its first titleholder.

| RANK | WRESTLER           | GROUP   | DATES HELD                              | YEARS/MCNTHS/DAYS |
|------|--------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1.   | LOU THESZ          | NWA     | 1937-38, 39, 47, 48-56<br>56-57, 63-66  | 12/7/11           |
| 2.   | Bruno Sammartino   | WWF     | 1963-71, 73-77                          | 11/2/21           |
| 3.   | Verne Gagne        | AWA     | 1963, 63-64, 64, 67-68,<br>68-75, 80-81 | 10/6/5            |
| 4.   | Nick Bockwinkel    | AWA     | 1975-80, 81-82, 82-84<br>86-87          | 8/2/21            |
| 5.   | Bob Backlund       | WWF     | 1978-83                                 | 5/10/6            |
| 6.   | Bill Longson       | NWA     | 1942, 43-47, 47-48                      | 5/3/19            |
| 7.   | Ric Flair          | NWA     | 1981-83, 83-84, 84-86<br>86-present     | 5/2/13*           |
| 8.   | Harley Race        | NWA     | 1973, 77-79, 79, 79-80<br>80-81, 81, 83 | 4/11/6            |
| 9.   | Dory Funk Jr.      | NWA     | 1969-1973                               | 4/3/23            |
| 10.  | Hulk Hogan         | WWF     | 1984-present                            | 3/4/23**          |
| 11.  | Gene Kiniski       | NWA     | 1966-69                                 | 3/1/4             |
| 12.  | Pedro Morales      | WWF     | 1971-73                                 | 2/9/23            |
| 13.  | Pat O'Connor       | NWA     | 1959-61                                 | 2/5/21            |
| 14.  | Jack Brisco        | NWA     | 1973-74, 74-75                          | 2/4/13            |
| 15.  | Mad Dog Vachon     | AWA     | 1964, 64-65, 65, 65-66<br>66-67         | 2/1/21            |
| 16.  | Buddy Rogers       | WWF/NWA | 1961-63, 63                             | 1/10/19           |
| 17.  | Rick Martel        | AWA     | 1984-85                                 | 1/7/16            |
| 18.  | Everette Marshall  | NWA     | 1936-37                                 | 1/3/3             |
| 19.  | Terry Funk         | NWA     | 1975-77                                 | 1/1/27            |
| 20.  | Dickie Hutton      | NWA     | 1957-59                                 | 1/1/26            |
| 21.  | Steve Casey        | NWA     | 1938-39                                 | 1/0/12            |
| 22.  | ray Steele         | NWA     | 1940-41                                 | 1/0/4             |
| 23.  | Bronko Nagurski    | NWA     | 1939-40, 41                             | 0/11/8            |
| 24.  | Billy Watson       | NWA     | 1947, 56                                | 0/9/28            |
| 25.  | Billy Graham       | WWF     | 1977-78                                 | 0/9/20            |
| 26.  | Sandor Szabo       | NWA     | 1941-42                                 | 0/8/15            |
| 27.  | Stan Hansen        | AWA     | 1985-86                                 | 0/6/0             |
| 28.  | The Crusher        | AWA     | 1963, 65                                | 0/3/8             |
| 29.  | Dusty Rhodes       | NWA     | 1979, 81, 86                            | 0/3/16            |
| 30.  | Bobby Mankoff      | NWA     | 1942-43                                 | 0/2/23            |
| 31.  | Tommy Jumbo Tsruta | AWA     | 1984                                    | 0/2/19            |
| 32.  | Yvon Roberst       | NWA     | 1942                                    | 0/1/20            |
| 33.  | Curt Hennig        | AWA     | 1987-present                            | 0/1/13***         |
| 34.  | Otto Wanz          | AWA     | 1982                                    | 0/1/7             |

\*Flair passes Longson on July 22, 1987 into 6th place. he would pass Backlund into 5th place in February 1988.

\*\*Hogan moves into 9th place on May 16 of next year.

\*\*\*Hennig would move into 25th place on the 25th of next February. To make it to the top 20, Hennig would have to hold the title until June 28, 1988

Lots of stuff going on here, so let's take it in the order of occurrence...The Rock and Roll Express are the new NWA tag team champions as a result of a television video tape miracle. Last issue we reported that Rick Rude had walked out of the promotion for the WWF. Yet right there on tape last weekend, you all saw him wrestling with manny Fernandez and losing the belts to the Rock and Roll Express. Except that's not exactly what you saw. Go back and watch the tape if you still have it (I doubt if they ever show it again). Notice that first of all, it's Manny who does the job...the person leaving the promotion always does the job. Notice that when the R & R's have their hands raised, they do not present them with the belts...instead they stop the tape just after the referee raises their hands. Notice that some of the people in the crowd are wearing heavy coats and sweaters...in June...in the middle of a heat wave. There is no building on the North American continent that keeps their air conditioning THAT cold. What you saw folks, is a match taped sometime last winter, a non title match, that Mr. Crockett just happened to be lucky enough to have on tape. I wonder when they are going to title change to (that is, what date).

Personally, I don't see anything wrong with this, even though it does lie to the fans. When a wrestler who holds a title just up and walks out of a promotion, it hurts everyone: promoter, fan, and other wrestlers who have to carry the load. The only thing that I wish is that they'd had a film of Rude getting pinned to make him look bad. Part of being a wrestler is living up to your commitments and if dropping a strap at the proper time is one of those commitments, then by God, they should drop it. Last year when Stan Hansen refused to do a job for Nick Bockwinkel, it was suggested to me by one of the wrestling fraternity that whenever new champions are crowned in a promotion, they should film the champion dropping the belt in an empty arena. If they should decide then, to leave giving no notice, then the promotion would then use technical methods to put a crowd behind the already filmed "title loss". Both the UWF and the WWF have the means at their disposal to do this, and although somewhat stupid sounding at first, it does tend to make a good deal of sense, and would probably limit the number of wrestlers walking out.

I really didn't mean to get off on that for so long, so let's get back to current happenings. Much to my surprise, Dusty didn't give himself the TV title, although I think it's only a matter of time now before he does. It will probably happen at a Bash show. Anyway, what happened in Greensboro on the 6th was surprising. The match between Tully Blanchard and Dusty Rhodes went about twenty minutes. The end came when Tully was on the outside, Dusty went to suplex him into the ring. On the way in, Dusty made sure to make the suplex in to a slingshot job (stealing Tully's finishing move) and proceeded to score a three count. Tully put his leg on the rope after the three count, but referee Tommy Young didn't see it until Dusty got up. During this time, JJ dillon ran over and stole the "\$100,000" that Magnum was holding at ringside and ran out of the building. Dusty took off after him as Tommy ordered the match restarted. So, with Dusty running around the parking lot in his wrestling trunks, Tommy Young proceeded to count Dusty out and award the match, the title, and the money to Tully.

Based on the after match interviews, it looks like Tommy Young might turn into a heel referee! Tommy pleaded his side of the case

saying how he had to make sure that Tully's leg hadn't been on the rope all the time (which video tape replays showed conclusively that he didn't) since there was so much on the line. He even went on to brag a bit about how he had been named NWA referee of the year five times. He also defended his decision by saying that the NWA doesn't rely on replays to render its decisions. I wouldn't normally think a whole lot about this (since it's almost impossible to turn a referee back to a neutral party again after a turn to heel and Tommy Young is a valuable piece of property to do something like that to), but the tone of Young's voice sounded very cocky. Jim Crockett was also there for the interview and he said that "Mr. Young's officiating will be investigated". Earlier in the show he had said that Tommy Young would not be officiating any more Dusty Rhodes matches until the matter is resolved.

I think it would be safe to say that any NWA show in July will be considered a Bash show. I'll try to have as many as I can listed here next issue, so in the meantime, watch WTBS for the schedule. On the fourth of July, they are having what is called "the match beyond" in Atlanta's Omni. It sounds wild. What they are going to have is two rings set up side by side. A steel cage will be constructed around both then a top will be added to the cage. One team will consist of Dusty, Nikita, the Road Warriors, and Paul Ellering. The other will be the four horsemen along with JJ Dillon. Two members from each team will begin the match and wrestle for five minutes. At that point, a coin toss will determine which team gets to send a member of their team into the cage to make it two on one. That will go for two minutes, and then a member of the other team will enter. Every two minutes, one man from each side will then enter until all ten men are in the cage. The winner will be determined by one criteria: The losers must lose by submission only. Like I said...sounds wild.

To heck with next issue. There's some of you out there who might want to make plans. Here are the July shows that I know about: 7/1 Lakeland, FL...7/2 - Landover, MD...7/4 - Atlanta...7/6 - Los Angeles...7/7 - San Francisco...7/10 - Pittsburgh...7/11 - Oklahoma City...7/19 Chicago...most will be held indoors this year as opposed to the outdoor flops of last year. I understand that Micheal Hayes' band will appear at some of the shows, and that this year they are going to try to gear the music a little more towards the region they're doing the show in. The indoor shows will of course eliminate a lot of weather problems, and in some places, assure a sellout (Chicago comes to mind) providing they forget about those \$50 ringside tickets of last year. I certainly hope they learned some lessons from the dismal failures of last year.

We haven't awarded the DIPSTICK OF THE MONTH award in a while because it seems that Fritz Von Erich had the thing all tied up. Well, we bring it out of Texas for this month to award it to Mr. Ego himself and his racial/sexist slur against Dark Journey in a recent interview. In an attempt to make himself look macho, he used the term "brown sugar", thus adding some credence to the letter by John Lanigan that appeared in our last issue. In addition to revealing himself as a bigot by making that remark, we must also chastise him for his use of profanity in the ring after his loss to Tully Blanchard. Dusty should remember that lips can be read. Perhaps if Jim Crockett is too afraid to talk to Dusty about this, maybe Ted Turner himself should talk to Jim Crockett. Back to the racist remark...how many of you would have known that Dark Journey is black anyway...just looking at her? To me, she looks like she is just dark skinned. Had I not known it, I would probably thought she was white. Anyway, Dusty gets the DSOTM this time around.

The coalition of Florida, UWF, and the NWA are now being called the "Wrestling Network". As I understand it, the network is being based out of Dallas. If I get more on this, I'll let you know.



## THE THIRD FALL

Henry never played professional football. But that's not the story the people he works for would have you believe. According to them, and for that matter, the other promotions that Henry has worked for, he in fact did play pro ball. Just because there's nothing in any team record books of the teams that they claimed he played for doesn't keep them from feeding us this line.

Oh sure, he had his tryouts. Anyone that big and strong could get a tryout. The problem was, having really never played the game, even in high school, it got rather hard to make the team.

Yet according to several current press releases, Henry played pro ball. Pro football. In the NFL no less.

I guess they figure that you wouldn't believe how Henry attained his fame outside of wrestling. And that, is the outcome of the third fall.

See, Henry was big. And strong. As a matter of fact, in high school he did manage to win a state championship. And while attending UCLA, he was ranked number five in the world for his division.

But who would believe that someone Henry's size would excel in track and field? That is the WWF's logic, and as I said, for that matter, any promotion that he has worked for.

He even went as far as to set a world's record later on in his career. Now this part, they do tell you about...sort of, but not directly.

The field event that Henry was so proficient at was the shot put. He even helped Kerry Von Erich when Kerry was competing in the discus throw.

The event though, that he set the world's record in, was a variation of the shot put. It was the anvil throw.

And that's how James Henry Neidhart got his nickname, 'the Anvil'.

But he never played pro football. And now you know the outcome of the third fall.

\*\*\*\*\*  
My thanks to Dave Meltzer and his "Who's Who of Professional Wrestling for background information on this issue's Third Fall.

THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE

We pre-empt our Wrestlers Are People Too feature this issue (because no one sent anything in on the subject) so these next two pages are going to be filled with things our readers would like to see, and "I wonder why..." questions that they have always wondered about. First the things our readers would like to see...

Jim Cornette's mother...Road Warrior Hawk smile... Ric Flair wrestle Ted DIBiase...Hulk hogan with out his perpetual tan...Ric Flair turn babyface...BETH SACKETT- FERNDAL, MI

My boss's picture on a milk carton some morning at breakfast...NAME WITHHELD-JIM CROCKETT PRO-MOTIONS (Editor assumes that this person is talking about Dusty).

A wrestler in the mold of a billy Robinson... Memphis wrestling in person...Big Bubba in a pair of wrestling trunks...Vince McMahon's tax return...Verne Gagne's tax return...good wrestling locally...the Original Tiger Mask working for a US promotion...Bill Watts return to the UWF...Kevin Von Erich's latest hospital chart...a wrestling network on one of the satellites...an announcer who really does play by play...any one of the four horsemen do an interview without once mentioning Dusty...Dusty retire...Fritz Von Erich tell the truth just once...a copy of the AWA rulebook...the Fabulous Moohlah's birth certificate...Hogan drop his title (even just for 24 hours)...any Von Erich do a job...a tape of Missy Hyatt in the job she had before coming to wrestling...JON GAL-LAGHER

Gene Okerlund or Gorilla Monsoon call a match without using a single cliché...ERIC HOYME-INDIANAPOLIS, IN

And of course there was an abundance of obscene things written in by various people about Missy, Elizabeth, Fallen Angel, and some of the CLOW

girls and the Federettes. If you have anything you'd like to see, let me know and we might do this again. Meanwhile, lets get on to some very interesting rhetorical questions...

I wonder why wrestlers don't have any hair in their armpits...CHRIS SHINN

Why is Rene Goulet the "number one Frenchman", and who are #'s 2, 3, 4, etc? Why is Jose Luis Rivera no longer Mac Rivera? What the \*&(\$#%\_ is a "nature boy"? Why does Pat Pat-terson refuse to speak in plurals (those Samoan are really hurting the Strongbow, breaking all the rule!") - JOSEPH COUGHLIN-Boston, MA

Where is Green Street? Does Parts Unknown have a zip code? Are there really people who are alive who buy George the Animal Steele's routine? How could Sergeant Slaughter ever get into the Marines weighing 300+ pounds? ERIC HOYME - Indianapolis, IN

Why does George Steele like to eat turnbuckles? Why do fans chant USA? Why doesn't Col DeBeers bother to learn a South African accent? What do independent wrestlers do for a day job? Who in the world will the public take seriously as a challenger for Hulk's title at Wrestlemania IV? Are American wrestlers booed in Russia? Why do some promotions have such a problem with no shows? Has Bruiser Brody ever owned a comb? Does precious get a quantity discount on Glade? Jon Gallagher

There is the whole of questions we got. Can you come up wth anymore? Do you want to see more? Am I watching too much of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood with Kelly? Will Scorpio and Anna get married again? Tune in next time for the answers to these and other exciting questions.

And by all means remember, we are looking for material for Wrestlers Are People Too.

## MEMPHIS

Things are starting to get fun around here again and they're doing it with old angles, some that are being dragged out of the attic (and have been there for years).

The first is in the ongoing trials of Tommy Rich and Jerry Lawler. Jerry had an interview where he told about getting a note on the windshield of his car saying how he shouldn't be so upset about what was happening to him because these were all things that he had done to others in the past (when he was a heel). One incident in particular was when Jerry Jarrett was wrestling and was approached by a lady wearing a dress wanting an autograph. When Jarrett took the pen and paper, the lady started beating him up and of course it turned out to be Lawler in drag.

Later, Tommy Rich comes out and starts to bad mouth Lawler because he wasn't there. Rich then climbed into the ring for a match, and was approached by a rather large lady wanting an autograph. As he was signing it (go ahead and get ahead of me here...you know what's coming) Lawler ripped off his wig and started whaling away on Rich, running him out of the ring. This group seems to be big on repeat angles, but fortunately, they space them enough years apart that only long time fans like Jeff Archey are able to remember.

In other news, Chick Donovan is being phased out which is just as well. he had a strip tease act that was entertaining, but after he stopped that and started to work, things got pitiful in a hurry. He lost the International belt to Bill Dundee on 5-30 I believe in Nashville in a horrible match.

Tubba Bubba is sticking around just for a short time it looks like. They are running two different yet similar angles off of this, so let me try to make some sense of it for you...Downtown Bruno was disappointed in how Bubba and Goliath were doing as a team. After a televised match, Bruno fired the duo. Tubba, er ah, Bubba then turned face to help out Jeff Jarrett who was being doubled up on by Tanaka and Diamond. This is the angle they showed in Memphis. Around the rest of the circuit, they just showed Bubba getting fired and did not show him turn babyface. I would guess this has to do with him heading to the AWA and they want to be able to use him as a heel in the rest

of the AWA territory but still as a face while they come to Memphis. This is just a guess.

Paul Dangerly wants to sign Bill Dundee to his "family". He came out for an interview and invited Dundee to come also. He told Dundee that he knew that he hated Jerry Lawler too, and that here was the deal if he would sign with Paul: Paul took out his American Express credit card and handed it to Dundee telling him to use it for thirty days. That should prove how serious Dangerly was. Dundee took the card without saying anything and started to leave. Dangerly stopped him and they had a little argument (during this time Dundee managed to position Dangerly so that his back was toward the dressing room). Jerry Lawler snuck out and held Dangerly's arms while Dundee stripped him of his pants. Again, an old, but effective skit.

Look for Randy Culley to return soon, as soon as his beard grows back, to team with Larry Latham and reform the Moondogs.

Tony Burton, who started here last year as the Ninja under Tojo has turned babyface also. It happened over a two week period when he took on Jeff Jarrett. Jeff beat him and after the match, Tojo started hitting Tony with his kendo stick. The second week featured a rematch with Tony coming up on the short end again. This time when Tojo started whacking him, Tony took the stick away and started using it himself. Helo and Shima hit the ring to help Tojo, but Jeff Jarrett returned to help Tony. Word has it that Tony is going over well in his new role due to his good looks.

Jerry Lawler scored a victory over Harley Race, but outside the ring. Lawler took Race and Titan Sports to court for using his "king" gimmick. Even though Lawler has not trademarked or copyrighted the gimmick, the courts ruled that an implied copyright was in effect due to the length of time Lawler has used the gimmick. As a result, Harley Race will no longer be able to wear the robe or crown, or be introduced as the king anywhere in the Mid Southern Marketing area. As I understand the court's ruling, Race will not be allowed to claim any sort of royal backgrounds including prince or duke. I'll have more on this as the story progresses; the WWF I imagine will appeal the ruling.

## THE PHANTOM OF THE RING

by Ed Garea

It's been a while since my last column, and I've just been lazing about, meandering over the wrestling news. One item, however, that has seemed to stir quite a reaction has been the Blatnik-Albano "debate" on Bob Trumpy's pseudo-sports program. My, my, my, but fans out there react as if the show wasn't fixed; I mean, what else could the explanation be when Jeff Blatnick, amateur wrestler extraordinaire, faces off against Captain Lou Albano, charity's best friend. What a confrontation; talk about taking advantage of the feeble-minded! When I saw this show listed in TV Guide, along with the participants, I knew without even looking how the show would turn out, and I was correct, unfortunately.

First, having Lou Albano defend the integrity of wrestling is tantamount to havin Mikhail Gorbachev defend human rights. Albano has long ago passed the line by which we tell the difference between fantasy and reality: after all, the nature of his sport demands such a blurring. One would expect better of Blatnick, supposedly a college man; remember, however, that Blatnick is no heavyweight in the brains department either, and he certainly proved that point during the course of the show, at times, almost descending to the emotional level of a wrestling promo interview. Even Bobby Heenan vs Ken Patera was a more intellectual debate. What both amazed and pleased me at the same time during the "debate" was that as silly as Albano got, Blatnick certainly made an honest effort to keep up with Lou, if not to top him.

Let's start by considering the topic under debate: "Is Professional Wrestling On the Level?" I thought this kind of stuff died with Dan Parker and Herman Hickman in the late fourties. No one in his or her right mind would even seriously consider for one minute the validity of the question. All one has to do is just watch one hour of televised wrestling to have the answer. After all, why go to the trouble of figuring this out for yourself when the promoters lay it right out for you in a neat pile? In the pseudo-intellectual world of sports, however, this question is equivalent to William F. Buckley and Carl Sagan debating the question of the origin of the universe. For some strange reason quite unknown to us, sports figures have an obsession with proving professional wrestling to be fake. Perhaps part of this is due to the fact those in the wrestling business adamantly refuse to admit fakery to those on the outside. The tone of the show never once deviated from that frequency, and that made it fun.

Every time Blatnick tried to make what he thought was a world shaking point, Albano merely retreated into the old "wrestlers do a lot to help cure MS" defense. And believe me, Blatnick should feel fortunate for that, for had he debated anyone with knowledge of the game, such as Dave Meltzer or Tom Burke, he would have been wiped out, to say the least. The only reason he got away with some of his statements was because Albano was either too ill prepared or too unaware to debate them. For instance, Blatnick's statement that professional wrestling hurts the amateur sport by denying it exposure. Point one: it is not pro wrestling that hurts the amateur sport, but rather the major media. When do we ever see the NCAA wrestling championships? If we see them at all, we see them in a condensed format. When is wrestling covered at the Olympics? Mainly when there is an American in the finals, or when there are a few minutes to kill. It seems to me that Blatnick would better be served by focusing on Roone Arledge rather than Vince McMahon. Point two: Given the lack of coverage of amateur wrestling by the media, professional wrestling by default becomes the only televised wrestling. It does not hurt the amateur sport; quite the contrary. I know several kids who became interested in wrestling by watching the pros. Also consider the monies given the amateurs over the years by

professional promoters such as Bill Watts and Steve Rickard. Rickard helped finance a tour by the New Zealand amateur contingent only to be rewarded later in the papers by being called a fake by the same people he was helping. No wonder the pros are edgy; the holier than thou attitude shown by amateur wrestlers would be enough to even discourage Saint Francis. Point three: The reason pro wrestling is way more popular than the amateur variety is because of the color enhancement by the pros. Twice in recent memory, the amateurs have tried to professionalize their style of wrestling and were met both times with incredible apathy on the part of paying customers. Remember the Freestyle Professional Association of two years ago? It even got a boost on several cable networks, but to no avail. Granted, the present state of professional wrestling must be embarrassing to the amateurs, but a straight professional version of their sport would not help. Rather, they should try something along the lines of the UWF "strong style" wrestling.

One last point I would have made against Mr. Blatnick: While he was busy in his tirade against the integrity of professional wrestling, I would have asked him if he had heard of Yoshiaki Yatsu, a former amateur wrestler now turned professional, who slimmed down to compete in Japan's amateur trials, won his weight class and the right to represent Japan in the 1988 Olympics, only to be rejected by the International Olympic Committee on the grounds that he is already a professional in his sport, and as such, cannot again compete as an amateur. In other words, the Olympic Committee believes professional wrestling to be legitimate. I would point this out to Mr. Blatnick, along with the fact that these are the very same people that awarded him the gold medal, and if he had any integrity whatsoever based on his arguments, would send the medal back to the Olympic people along with a note telling them what to do with it. But the chances of this happening are as great as Hulk Hogan stepping tin to wrestle Blatnick in a Greco-Roman match. Of course, Blatnick knew when he issued the challenge that Hogan would never accept. First, someone would have to teach Hogan the concept of Greco-Roman wrestling; second, in his current condition, he could never defeat Blatnick anyway. Thirdly, Blatnick knew all this when he issued the challenge. For a guy who criticizes pro wrestling, Jeff Blatnick would do all right for himself in the sport. Makes one think...

GRAPPLE WITH THIS ONE...

by John Hunter

This is a logic puzzle. I will give you a situation with some clues, and your job is to figure out who wrestled who and in what city. All matches are babyface-heel matches, all in a different city. The wrestlers are: HEELS: Flair, Luger, Anderson, Blanchard, and Murdoch. BABYFACES: Nikita, Dusty, Barry Windham, Ron Garvin, and Dr. Death. CITIES: Chicago, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Charlotte, and St. Louis. Here are the clues:

1. Arn (who did not wrestle Garvin) caught an early flight to Charlotte.
2. The Murdoch-Williams bout did not take place in St. Louis. Flair did not defend his title there either.
3. Dusty's flight was delayed getting into Atlanta. He met Flair and Blanchard there, both of them leaving for other cities.
4. Nikita wrestled in Philadelphia.

Those clues will give you enough information to solve the problem. Who wrestled who and where. I'll give the answer next time...



## INDEPENDENTS

It's been a while since we've taken a look at some of the independent promotions around the country, so since we've got some extra space, let's do that.

Out in Arizona, there's a group turning some heads and rightfully so. It's called SWA, and recently in Phoenix, they were able to draw some 700-1000 fans to a live arena show. This on the surface might not seem so fantastic, but one must realize that for this show, the didn't have a TV outlet, and the only advertising done was via posters in local businesses. It's even more impressive when you consider that the WWF and the NWA has trouble drawing that many when they do have the TV and other media support.

Names you might recognize from here are old timer Reggie Parks (the man with the cast iron stomach), Archie Gouldie who has and is wrestling here as the Mongolian Stomper, and perennial Arizona heel Marcial Rovee. A new tag team has been introduced to the area known as the Union Brotherhood, and they are using a roughhouse, redneck teamster gimmick. I understand that Rovee is responsible for bringing them to the area.

Towns covered by this promotion (get out your Atlas) include Yuma, Sierra Vista, Nogale, and Tucson all in Arizona, and they will be promoting in the Riverside Casino in Loughlin, Nevada and also in Blythe California. Their main arena appears to be the Pride Pavilion as they have signed for seven shows there with the next one coming up on 6/19.

Moving up the continent just a bit to Salt Lake City we find promoter Ox Anderson has set up shop with Rocky Mountain Championship Wrestling. Buddy Rose appears to be the booker for the group and has brought in with him, fellow AWA outcast Colonel DeBeers. Steve pardee, who has worked the west Coast as a jobber for the WWF, NWA, and AWA is in as a babyface. They debuted about a month ago on their opening card, the ring ropes busted twice and the ring collapsed in the center after a suplex. Dash Rip Rock is one of the wrestlers and he's described by Jack Thompson, our source for this report, as a larger version of Stan Lane. He was trained in Calgary by the Hart family and it showed.

Attendance for their first show was 500 thereabouts. That surpasses the latest AWA card by nearly 100%. The show was held at the Fair grounds and had the following results: Mando Guerrero and the Marauder wrestled to a draw (C+)...Tally Lapuaito beat Tim Patterson by DQ (F-)...Jerry Monti pinned Dash Rip Rock (B+)...Dr. Pepper LaBlanca pinned Winona Little Heart (A-)...Col DeBeers beat Kelly Moyes (B)...Steve pardee over Buddy Rose on a reversed decision (B-).

And here in little old Knoxville, population 3500, located halfway between the Quad Cities and Peoria (for those of you who think Knoxville is close to Chicago...check out an atlas!) we are going to be treated to some live wrestling of our own. Each year, we have what is known as the Knox County Fair (which contrary to popular belief consists of more than two dead pigs and a tractor that won't start). To attract people, they have grandstand shows and this year, for the first time in over ten years, professional wrestling will invade Knoxville.

We've been promised stars from the WWA which is better known as Bruiser Bedlam. Guaranteed to appear according to the contract signed with the Fair board are Dick the Bruiser himself, and Moose Cholak (I wonder if he'll wear the dress that he used to wear in Ben's Auto sales commercials in Chicago?), two female wrestlers, and a total of twelve wrestlers on the card. The date is August 5 with the opener to begin at 8:00 pm.

I'll be on hand to let you all know what happens.

FLORIDA  
by Jeff Bowdren

The biggest news in the Sunshine state continues to be the bizarre behavior of Kevin Sullivan. As I explained last issue, Sullivan suddenly experienced a memory loss, and has lately had trouble remembering where he's wrestling, much less who. Well, as our story continues (Maybe we could start a soap opera about this or something..."As Kevin's Memory Turns) Kevin has now taken to calling Dory Funk "Terry", and when talking about a card that was upcoming in Lakeland, he said, "Bad News Allen, In Thunderdome, two men enter...one man leaves." Only problem of course is that the match between Sullivan and Bad News Allen took place in March. Now he comes out and claims, "although he's not paranoid, a brown LTD had been following him around". Kevin has also started to wear eye makeup to make it appear that he hasn't slept in a couple of days. The whole thing now appears to be heading toward Kevin and Dusty teaming up in some sort of a one shot deal. This would of course bring new meaning to the term "dream team". Kevin has been eluding in interviews to the "after the darkest dark comes light" (and he has always termed his feud with Rhodes as the battle of dark vs. light). He also stated that "he and I will walk together one day", without mentioning who "he" was, but it was pretty obvious that he was talking about Rhodes. On Humperdink's Southern Pro Show, he started telling everyone that he and Humperdink "had a contract" (something Hump and Kevin have been denying for about five months). He then demanded that since Hump was his manager ("I AM NOT YOUR MANAGER!") that he (Kevin) wanted a shot at the world's champion...Dusty Rhodes. I have a feeling that if Kevin does end up a babyface it will be a sign of the magnitude of the failure of Ed Gantner to get over as a face.

OTHER NOTES: The Florida title has been held up following a match in Orlando between Funk and Rotunda. Look for the belt to go to Dory soon. By the way, congratulations to Mike Rotunda and his wife who are the proud parents of a baby boy. My guess is they didn't name him "Vince".

Rookie Johnny Ace is getting a push as the Shepherders asked him to hold their flag. He turned them down and will probably be destroyed within the next week or so.

They have a fat jobber down here called "Outlaw Sam Bass" from Pampa, Texas, which is a nice little snide swipe at Ron Bass...

Dave Sierra and Ricky Santana have returned from the Northwest as a tag team called the Cuba Connection. How original.

6-8 in Fort Pierce has Keirn/Gantner vs Funk/Anoaia, Sullivan vs Rotunda, and Southern Boys vs Shepherders. 6-10 in Fort Lauderdale has Keirn vs Funk ("grudge match?"), sheeps vs Southern Boys, Rotunda vs Teijo Khan, Gantner/Ron Simmons vs Sullivan/Anoaia.

Southern Boys did a video with the song they come to the ring with, the title of, I don't know. It was alright, but not exactly "badstreet".

In closing, a comment on Kevin Sullivan's recent angle with him losing his memory. Say what you will about the guy's workrate (or lack thereof) and the fact that his physical condition is terrible, but the guy is absolutely TREMENDOUS on interviews and has a great wrestling mind. I realize there have been times when he went overboard with the devil gimmick, but this memory loss thing is one of the freshest (Editor's note: and funniest) angles I've seen in a long time. It's amazing how the guy can make his interviews fresh every week while Flair's interviews get stale. See you next issue...

"HOLY SURPRISE ENDING, BATMAN! RICKY STEAMBOAT LOST THE INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE TO THE HONKY TONK MAN!" Well, at least a little bit of a surprise. I had a subscriber who had been told of this last month, but their letter didn't reach me in time to let you know last issue. Let's take care of the actual loss before we go into why.

The match itself between Honky Tonk Man Wayne Ferris and Ricky Steamboat was a pretty good one. Of course, it's rare for Steamboat to be off when he's on TV (in person, he doesn't always put out). The two exchanged advantages several times, and even Jimmy Hart took a nice bump in the beginning. The ending saw Steamboat wrap Ferris up in a small package near the ropes. As the referee counted, Ferris grabbed the ropes and got himself on top. The end was confusing for the fans in attendance (Buffalo 6/2) and there was total shock when the decision was announced. Several callers this past week that I told of the upcoming change were shocked as well.

As for speculating as to why the title change thus making Steamboat the shortest lived Intercontinental champ in history (two months, six days - three weeks of which was the post-Wrestlemania layoff), several have guessed that due to the untimely departure of Jim Duggan, the injury to Jake Roberts (more later), and the Steamboat Savage feud having run its course, they needed to heat up a new feud with Steamboat if they wanted to continue to run three shows a night. One show can of course have Hogan, but they need another hot babyface feud to draw fans out for the other two cities. The Hart Foundation-Bulldogs confrontations are gettin old fast, and the Can Am-Islanders hasn't gotten off the ground yet. This is a plausible explanation, however, Sean came up with some inside info that sounds even more believable.

According to one of Sean's contacts, Steamboat wanted to take most of the summer off in order to be with his wife who is expecting. With Duggan (possibly) gone, and Jake out, he may not get to, but at least he won't have to work the schedule of a champion. With Honky Tonk having the belt now, it may also open the door for Randy Savage to turn babyface (even though he told me he wasn't, he said that reluctantly). I know Savage is scheduled against HIM in several arenas across the country already. This is the explanation that makes more sense to me.

Locally, we will see the WWF in Springfield, IL tonight (the 15th... I'm not going 103 miles to see the "C" team) and in Peoria again on the 19th. A local radio station has one wrestler in the lobby before the matches now, and this time we can meet Hillbilly Jim. No thanks. The line up will be some horrific stuff with the Bulldogs-Hart Foundation on top, and an undercard that reads like the "Who? Who?" of wrestling. Hillbilly Jim will try to get revenge on King Kong Bundy for the incident at WMIII and will have Little Beaver himself in his corner (and to think they're going to run this thing all over the country). JYD is scheduled against Volkoff, I believe, as his interviews are as incoherent as before. Mean Gene said on the local show that prime "blue chip seats" are still available. Just for kicks, I called the local outlet for Ticketmaster, and asked...they wanted to know if I wanted second or third row seats.

Speaking of low ticket sales, they really had to go to work out in New York City to draw anyone. I understand that ticket sales were at an all time low, and they went to heavy advertising on TV and radio as well as a few half page newspaper ads. The main event was Hogan vs Race in a Texas Death Match and the stip that if Hogan lost, he would retire from wrestling. They added the Midnight Rockers to the card in a last minute attempt to boost ticket sales.

COMINGS AND GOINGS DEPT...Jake Roberts is out of action due to a neck injury, and may have surgery. He should be back in the ring

by August. Junkyard Dog has returned, being given a second chance by Vince. I'm not sure how he's doing though, as his interviews still make as much sense as the new tax laws. And also, Jim Duggan, who you all realize was suspended after being busted for drug possession, is still being announced at some cards down in the southern United States. I don't know what's going on there, but it's my guess that fans turning out to see him are going to be disappointed.

The Midnight Rockers debuted on the last set of tapings, being particularly impressive in their Rochester matches which was taped for Wrestling Challenge.

Jesse Ventura's movie, or at least the one that he's in with Arnold "drive the spell-check on my typewriter nuts" Swartenager, called Predator. They showed a clip of it on this past weekend's Superstars show, and, sorry Charlie, but I think I'll wait till it hits the 50¢ bin at the local video store.

APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE for the new public service announcements about saying "NO" to drugs. Jake and Steamboat have been on so far, and if you read between the lines of what they say, you can tell they're sending barbs Jim Duggan's way. This past weekend, Ricky made some comments to the effect that some awfully big people are going down because of drugs. I don't know what the WWF's position on Duggan and Sheik are; that is, I don't know if they are going to stand behind them or not. I think that this is one case that as a promoter, I would have a hard time sticking up for my guys. Personally, I hope they throw the book at these two. Drug use is illegal. And anyone who drinks and drives must have trouble reaching double figures in the IQ department. If they want to destroy their own bodies, I guess that's okay. But when they start endangering the lives of others by doing it in a moving car, or in Duggan's case, driving the car, they need to be punished in some way that will hurt them enough that they will think twice before doing it again. All it would take for some people would be a night in jail. Others it might take some time in jail with a good stiff fine. Whatever it takes, I hope these two straighten themselves out. By the way, did you notice that the "foreigner" wasn't deported after being caught with cocaine?

How big of an impact does Wrestlemania have? What exactly does that 93,000 live attendance figure mean? Let me enlighten you some what. I talked to an insider and was told that normally, the WWF will draw somewhere between 50,000 and 63,000 over the period of a week to its live shows. That's seven nights with three shows in three different cities each night. Show A will have eight to ten matches with somewhere around 20-25 wrestlers and managers appearing. Show B will have six to eight matches with 15-20 wrestlers, and show C will have 5 or 6 matches with usually a maximum of 14 guys on the card. That's fifty wrestlers a night working. That's twenty one shows a week to draw about 70% of what Wrestlemania III did live. NOW you know why they spend so much time with Wrestlemania...it's like working ten days on the road only cheaper because they don't have to transport twenty different rings and pay fifty different wrestlers. Add to that the closed circuit locations and the pay per view audience, and now you know how they can afford to take three weeks off after the event. And you have to wonder why they don't do something similar sometime later on in the year.

Don Muraco and Bob Orton turned on each other at the latest Meadowland card. They and Koko were the final three in the battle royal. They were killing Koko when Orton accidentally knocked Muraco out of the ring then was eliminated himself. The later, while taking on Can Am, they split for good, fighting all the way back to the dressing room. Problem is, we can't tell who was the heel and who was the babyface. Stay tuned for more, same Bat-time, same Bat-bulletin.

UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

Terry Taylor is very unlikable as a heel. That is, he's playing his role well, because I'd like to slap him in the face. He's doing the bit where he claims that HE didn't change. He's always wrestled that way... the way a winner wrestles. What took place in his match where he turned (with Chris Adams) was this: Adams and referee Carl Fergie collided with Adams landing outside the ring. Taylor acted like he had been involved in the collision too, but after he made sure the ref was down, he went outside and piledrove Adams into the arena floor. He sneaked back in the ring and allowed Adams to be counted out.

To solidify his turn he also interrupted an interview between Jim Ross and rookie Steve Cox to demand some interview time of his own. After Jim put him in his place, Taylor started to walk off then hit Cox. Eddie Gilbert has approached Terry in case he wants to join Hot Stuff, but as of yet (the last tape I saw) he had not as of yet.

Before DiBiase decided to take off for the WWF, they had some major plans for him. It looks like they were going to turn him heel. Commissioner John Ayers announce a new top ten which went as follows: 10-Iceman, 9-Vladimir Petrov, 8-Sting, 7-Terry Taylor, 6-Adams, 5-Barry Windham, 4-Terry Gordy, 3-Eddie Gilbert, 2-Ted DiBiase, and 1-Steve Williams. Ted was upset that he had returned from Japan and had been promised a title shot against Bubba, yet was ranked number two behind Doc. Ayers said there would have to be a match between the two, and Ted made a big deal out of it, saying, it would be a hell of a match.

I don't know how they've handled the situation on TV since I'm just a little behind, but I think I would say that he left the area because he couldn't accept being number two (adding something to the effect that the "crybaby" left. Don't get me wrong, Ted is one of my favorite wrestlers, and as I said before, as a worker, I rank him even just a hair above Flair, but as I understand it, he backed out of a handshake deal. I wish Ted luck, but by backing out, he left the door open for them to say just about anything and be justified in saying it. If he'd stuck around to finish things out like Hacksaw did, then it might be

a little different.

This just in: TERRY TAYLOR WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT THIS PAST WEEK. I have very few details other than the accident occurred either this past Thursday or Friday evening. The extent of the injuries as I have them at this time were some severed abdominal muscles and some injuries to his intestines which required operation. He should be on his back for at least six weeks, and should be out of action for at least four months.

Other details are still sketchy, but I understand that Taylor was driving the car and Eddie Gilbert and Missy Hyatt were passengers. Allegedly, another car pulled out in front of Taylor and the accident resulted. Gilbert and Hyatt were not seriously injured. The accident was not reported to the crowd at the Superdome for a card held there 6/13, and no explanation was given for Taylor's absence.

Speaking of the superdome card, Taylor was acheduled to go against Chris Adams. The surprise, and ironically so, was the wrestler who took Taylor's place: Black Bart. Jeff Bowdren and I joked that they could have told the crowd that the Superdome had just been magically transported to Los Angels and that they were seeing a match for the World Class title (remember...the one that never took place that Bart won?). I would have been a good thing to tell the fans, because that way, maybe the clean pinfall that Bart scored over Chris would have made more sense that way.

Steve Williams and Eddie gilbert had a match recently to determine the number one challenger for the UWF title. Steve got the victory, but after the three count, Eddie held Doc on top of him while Dick Murdoch hit the ring. The two heels then attacked Doc's arm, thereby setting up what may be a decent feud with Doc and Dick. Dick is great at playing the heel, and he can take some terrific bumps to make Steve look even better.

Houston will be the site of a one night tourney to crown the new Western States Champion on 6/20. I should have a complete report on that card here next time. Terry Taylor was ot have had a major role in the outcome, but with his injury, that may drastically change plans.

WORLD CLASS  
by Jeff Siegel

You've got to feel for Brian Adias. First, boyhood friend Mike Von Erich commits suicide while feuding with him. Then, following Mike's death, there are subtle references to the "negative psychological effect" that Adias' turn had on Mike. Yet, Adias continues to play heel in the wake of this tragedy.

Next, Kevin Von Erich collapses in the ring due to questionable causes. Fritz immediately clears it up, though: Adias applied a deadly Oriental deathlock that he learned during one of the trips that Adias never made to Japan. But here's the icing on the cake: Kevin, having recovered sufficiently to comment on the events of the past month, says that he's aghast that Adias would attempt to kill him in the ring. That's KILL, as in MURDER. If nothing else, Kevin's tasteless and inappropriate comments prove that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

As for Adias, somebody help me out here: Is he that poor of a worker that he couldn't catch on somewhere else (surely Verne could push him as a challenger to Hennig)? Or is he dating the Von Erich daughter that Fritz never knew he had (the one he fathered on a trip to the Orient, perhaps)?

When there's room to spend half a page hypothesizing on Brian Adias' situation, you can bet it's another morbidly slow month in World Class. In "big" news, Cousin Junior is in, billed as Cousin Roscoe Junior (doesn't that make you want to relocate to Fort Worth in time for the Junior-Grappler feud?). And the Dingo Warrior is back, having turned down an offer to join Titan's "minor league" circuit (the "C" team to towns like Davenport). Talk about bruised egos --- Dingo's got to be suffering from one. When you're a dismal worker by Titan's standards, there's really room for improvement.

Haven't seen the new Bum Bright-produced World Class shoe yet, But I've heard that Bill Mercer will be retained as the announcer, begging this question: If they've made a commitment to upgrading production standards, wouldn't it make sense to begin by replacing one of the all time worst announcers ever to call a wrestling show? And if you've absolutely got to keep him, wouldn't you at least want to add a sidekick for wrestling know how and color commentary ---two concepts about which Mercer obviously hasn't a clue?

## ALABAMA

This is our first Alabama report, and I hope for many more to come. I am not getting tapes of this promotion, but I have two people now sending regular reports along with what I can pick up from Pro Wrestling This Week. As we do when ever we start to cover a promotion, we give you a primer to sort of introduce you to the area. Next issue we'll start going in depth a little bit more.

The promotion is run by the Fuller family and during the summer months run weekly cards in Birmingham (site of the WFIA convention this year). Champions include Mr. Wrestling II as the Alabama champ, Scott Armstrong as the US Jr. Heavyweight titleholder, Wendall Cooley holds the Continental belt, and Dutch Mantell is the Southeastern champion. The Tag belts are held by Robert Fuller and Jimmy Golden.

Dividing the group up into good and evil, the faces include Wrestling II, Scott and Bob Armstrong (Bob just returning from the NWA), the Nightmares Ken Wayne and Danny Davis, Wendall Cooley, and Mr. Olympia who is Jerry Stubbs under a mask and who has just turned face.

Heels in the group include Tom Pritchard (who is feuding with Scott over the junior title), Sheepperder jonathan Boyd who has just arrived, Mike Golden, Tony Anthony (who is now feuding with former partner Stubbs), Dutch Mantell (also in from Crockett), and newly turned heels Robert Fuller and Jimmy Golden.

Stubbs makes no bones about being Mr. Olympia. It's sort of a strange situation. After a breakup with the Dirty White Boys, he and Anthony got into it. Stubbs came out on an interview and said he had done some pretty lousy things in his time, but there was one person who had NEVER disappointed the fans: Mr. Olympia and he put on the mask (he must have forgotten all the grief he caused for JYD as Mr. Olympia in the old Mid South).

As for the turn of Fuller and Golden, it happened this way: Danny Davis was entered in a tournament, and in the final match, he was pitted against Jimmy golden. Robert Fuller came out and interfered and so out came Ken Wayne also. Davis won the match and was presented with an 87 Camaro. Upon presentation of the car, Fuller and Golden hit the stage and beat up the nightmares, injuring Ken Wayne in the process. The then went on to break the headlights and dent the car with some sort of a stick. Davis is promising revenge, and until Ken Wayne can come back, Davis will be using a "mystery partner".

Cooley and Mantell are in the midst of a heated feud with Mantell carrying his bullwhip to the ring.

The fans here were promised that the AWA champion would be in to defend his belt. What they are getting however is Nick Bockwinkel and matches in which he defends his number one contender status (is this dumb, or what?). I guess that has to do with the fact that Nick is willing to travel, and Curt isn't used to it yet.

More details next time as this concludes our first report on the Continental group.



5-24 CHICAGO (NWA-UWF) - courtesy of Ron Dobratz...Tim Horner drew Eddie Gilbert (B)...Gordy/Roberts beat Steiner/Sting (B+)...Taylor and Adams were both disqualified (B+)...Rock and Roll over Midnight Express (A-) ...Hayes beat Bubba by DQ (B)...Fernandez/Pietrov beat Brad Armstrong/Barry Windham (B-)...Nikita beat Ivan (C)...Dusty/Road Warriors beat Flair/Blanchard/Luger (A)...NOTES: ATTENDANCE: Sellout, approx 11,000... R & R - Midnight was 2 - 3 falls...one of the best Chicago cards in recent memory...matches were good and long...Luger was only one not to bleed in cage match.

5-29 PITTSBURGH (WWF) - courtesy of John Lanigan...SD Jones pinned Dave Barbee (F)...Tiger Chung Lee over Sam Houston (C+)...Poffo beat JJJunk (B)...Harley Race defeated Jerry Allen (D-)...Demolition over Bees (B)...George Steele by COR over Volkoff (D)...Reed pinned Santana (B-)...Hogan/Koko beat Honky Tonk Man/Kamala (C)...NOTES : ATTENDANCE: 7923 (7488 paid)...smallest Hogan crowd ever in Pittsburgh...Pirates game was competition with radio station giving away 5000 free tickets and having a tailgate party at 3 Rivers...no shows included Dick Slater who was to work with Race...Duggan (suspended) and Jake (injured)...

5-30 PHILADELPHIA (NWA) - courtesy of Jammie Ward...Denny Brown pinned Thunderfoot #2...Baron over Mark Flkeming...Todd Champion beat Thunderfoot #1...Midnight Express went to a 20 minute draw with Ron Garvin/Barry Windham...Luger/Blanchard/Arn beat Dusty/Warriors by DQ...Nikita over Ivan...Flair won by DQ over Jim Garvin...NOTES: Express-Windham/Garvin best match of night...Warriors and Dusty DQ'd because they wouldn't stop pounding on Tully's leg...Flair made some nasty gestures during his match.

5-30 JOHNSTOWN, PA (WWF) - courtesy of John Lanigan...Bam Bam Bigelow pinned Tony Garea (C+)...Shadow #2 beat Jim Powers (C)...SD Jones upset Volkoff by with a pin (D)...Demolition beat Bees (B-)...Santana drew Reed (D+)...Roma beat Shadow #1 (C-)...Hercules pinned Billy Jack...NOTES: Attendance: 1942...Bigelow impressive...Garea sub for injured (reported last issue) Siva Afi...SD Jones on a roll...Reed-santana's 20 min draw went about 15...Herc and BJ both bled and shocked crowd (no one ever bleeds here)...

5-31 DETROIT (WWF) - courtesy of Beth Sackett...Brad Rheingans over Terry Gibbs...Sam Houston beat Steve Lombardi...Roma/Powers over Shadows...Hulk by DQ over Kamala...Honky Tonk beat Cpl. Kirschner...Bulldogs won by COR over Hart Foundation...Bass pinned Outback...Race rolled over Koko...ATTENDANCE: 7000...Kimshee interfered for hogan's DQ win...Jake was there (Kirschner subbed) and put snake on Jimmy Hart...

5-31 CALIFORNIA, PA (WWF) - courtesy of John Lanigan...Bigelow over Garea (C+)...Tama over Orton (C)...Muraco pinned Haku (D-)...Blair/SD Jones over Demolition (B)...Hillbilly Jim pinned Iron Mike Sharpe (C-)...Steamboat beat Savage...ATTENDANCE: 2225...held in a college gym with no air conditioning...some people being helped out because of this...three in a row for SD...ropes broke during Demolition-Bees match...referee Bucky Palermo owns the ring so he was very cautious in allowing Savage and Steamboat to jump off the ropes in their match...

6-4 KANSAS CITY (CS) - courtesy of William Wilson...Ric McCord and Earthquake Ferris went to a draw...Vinnie Valentino beat Russell Sapp...Batten/Jaggers over Kovac/Warlord...Rufus beat Mr. Pogo...Cash pinned Dave Peterson...Bruiser Brody and Rip Rogers went to a no contest...ATTENDANCE: 300...Russell Sapp is former "go-fer"...being billed as having a record

of 2 wins 103 losses

5-30 BALTIMORE (WWF) - courtesy of Fred Naarisma...Poffo pinned Gibbs...Jerry Allen over JJFunk...Kamala won by DQ over George Steele...Islanders beat Muraco/Orton...Honky Tonk beat Kirschner...Lee pinned Houston...Danny Davis by COR over Koko...Hogan pinned Race...NOTES: ATTENDANCE: 7000...George got into tasting Kamala's belly paint...kinky...Islanders played faces as the show where they turned didn't air until late that night...Jake was at ringside and did some business with Damien in the bag...

6-4 OMAHA (WWF) - courtesy of Bruce Grummert...Demolition drew Can Am...Sika beat Kirschner...Bass downed Scott Casey...Butch Reed over Poffo...Moolah beat Debbie Combs...Ken Patera pinned Race...Koko pinned Honky Tonk...Hercules beat Boring Jack...NOTES: Attendance 4850...Koko got a clean pinfall just two days after HTM won IC title (he didn't have the belt of course)...Patera and Race particularly bad...

6-6 BOSTON (WWF) - courtesy of Joseph Coughlin...Jose Estrada beat Sivi Afi...Can Am over Demolition...SDJones pinned Pete Doherty...Honky Tonk pinned Koko...Chung Lee over Rheingans...George Steele beat Davis by COR...Poffo backflipped by Frenchy Martin...Hogan beat Race in a Texas death match...NOTES: Attendance: around 10,000...a string of firecrackers were thrown during the Demolition match...scared the spit out of Monsoon and Hennan...Steele slammed Davis 12 times in a row...Hogan hit Race with belt for the victory...

6-7 ATLANTA (NWA) - courtesy of David Williamson...Gilbert pinned Kendall...New Breed beat Valiant/Lazertron...Sting/Steiner over Baron/Todd Champion...Chris Adams and Terry Taylor both COR...R & R beat Ivan/Petrov...Barry Windham beat Bubba by COR...Nikita beat Murdoch...Flair/Tully/Lex beat the Freebirds...NOTES: No attendance estimate but crowd was said to be big...Nikita-Murdoch was a cage match...Buddy Roberts did the job on the Freebirds behalf...

6-8 MEADOWLANDS (WWF) - courtesy of John pantozzi...Bass pinned Poffo...Khan beat Kirschner...Reed over Outback...Koko won a bunkhouse battle royal...Danny davis beat George Steele by countout...Can Am over Orton/Muraco...Koko beat Sharpe...OMG crushed SD Jones...Islanders pinned Santana/Morales...NOTES: Attendance 2200...Muraco and Orton turned on each other during battle royal and again during tag match...not sure who's the face...Davis is making a living being slammed by Steele...You have to wonder what was going through OMG's mind when he came out into this 18000 seat place and saw 2200...he must have looked across the ring to see if Nick Bockwinkel or Curt Hennig was on the other side of the ring...

6-10 LOS ANGELES (WWF) - courtesy of Andy Dragos...Afi over Frenchy (D+)...Casey pinned Estrada (C+)...Beefcake trimmed Valiant (C+)...Hercules pinned Patera (C)...Orndorff COR Steamboat (B)...Moolah over Combs (D+)...Rick Rude pinned Dusty Wolfe (C+)...Demolition beat Killer Bees...NOTES:Orndorff sub for Race...Rude used Rude Awakening...perhaps a feud of the DDT's in the offing?...

6-13 NEW ORLEANS (UWF) - courtesy of Jeff Steele...Shane Douglas drew Pez (terrible)...Buddy Roberts pinned Boyette (pathetic)...Steve Cox messed up the finish but beat Gary Young...Hayes/Gordy over Enforcer/Terminator...R & R beat Petrov/Angel...Horner/Armstrong beat Steiner/Sting...Bubba beat Barry with roll of quarter (best match)...Bart beat Chris...Doc beat Murdoch...NOTES:not a good show on a whole...Doc wore a cast to the ring...used it on both Murdoch and Gilbert...

6-14 CHARLOTTE (NWA) - courtesy of Mike Gunter...Mod Squad drew Southern...Valiant/Lazertron beat Gladiators...Arn pinned Kendall...Fernandez/Petrov over Todd Champion/Ron Garvin...R & R beat Midnight after a double pin...Lex DCOR nikita...Dusty beat Tully in Texas death match...Flair pinned Jim Garvin using ropes. NOTES: Attendance: 7500..TX death went 3 falls...RR-Midnight best match...

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

First off, let's take care of last issue's trivia question. The question: Sgt. Slaughter as a heel in the WWF once offered \$5000 to anyone who could break his dreaded cobra clutch. Who was the very first victim to try? Answer: Ironically, it was the man who had been touted of late to take his place and was the focus of much controversy last issue, Jim Duggan who was working there as a jobber at the time. We had that question written an in the paste up well before all of the Duggan story last issue came to light. Like I said...ironic.

There is no trivia question this time as the logic puzzle by John Hunter takes its place. If I figure out the answer, I'll print it here next time (John promises to give me the answer if I can't figure it out.)

I got a newspaper clipping from Terry Parker out in Oklahoma that has an interview with former Olympian and Oklahoma University star Danny Hodge. He's "approaching the 'double nickel'" in regards to his age (I remember him from the early to mid sixties working for Gagne). I think he may be getting a little senile in his old age...when asked about Hulk Hogan, he replied, "I knew Hulk Hogan in the early SIXTIES when he was 'Hawk' Hogan. He had a hawk cut in the hair on his chest. He's a weight lifter and bodybuilder. As a wrestler, I don't think he could take me today." Now I remember Hulk wrestling in the south with a mushroom cloud cut out of his chest hair, but it seems he was working under the name of Sterling Golden at the time. I don't know...maybe he did wrestle when he was five or six...

Check out the new issue of Wrestling Eye! It has Randy Savage on the cover but more importantly, it has a very good article by our own Ed Garea on Ric Flair along with some pictures of the champ when he was a rookie with the AWA back in 1972. Ric is barely recognizable with his short BROWN hair and his gut hanging over his trunks. I saw Ric around this time in Peoria where Gagne had him go to a draw with perennial jobber George "Scrapiron" Gadaski in an opener.

Last issue I said some of our goals are to get at least one subscriber in every state and that sometime I might list the states we lack subscribers in. I didn't expect as much response as we got of people asking to help! Thank you all. As of 6-14, here are the states that we have no subscribers in: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona,

Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming, and Washington DC. Also there was some favorable response to listing what states had the most subscribers. This issue sees California and New York tied with 15 each, with Illinois just a couple behind at 13. I'll update the list in a couple of months.

Meanwhile, there are a couple of new bulletins out there that could use subscribers from just about anywhere. The first is Pro Wrestling Digest. It's done by good friend JD McKay Jr, and some friends. It will be a monthly publication and is \$1.75 per copy or six issues for \$8.75. Address is PRO WRESTLING DIGEST - %JD McKay, 103 Adam Allen Cove, Louisville, MS 39339.

The second is not a new publication, rather a triumphant return for Ron Evans. He does Wrestling Informer which cover the Pacific Northwest along with a lot of results from all over. It's \$2.00 for a single issue or a whole year for \$12.00. Published monthly it is the only bulletin that also has an original comic strip featuring the adventures of Arman Ra. Address is 2312 W. 23rd Place, Eugene, OR 97405.

Speaking of the Pacific Northwest, guess who popped up at a recent TV tapings? Roddy Piper. He greeted Mean Mike Miller who had just turned Babyface, and left a lot of hints that he (Piper) just might be Miller's mystery partner in an upcoming tag match against Miller's old partners Rip Oliver and Moondog Moretti. The mystery partner wore a mask and called himself the Black Ninja. I have no idea who it was, but it certainly wasn't Piper.

Madison Square Garden was to have been the site of a GLOW card, but seems Vince McMahon put a quick stop to that. Ticket sales for the ladies had been very good, but Vince decided to throw his power around. Rumor has it that he wants the GLOW girls to replace Moohlah's girls, but that remains to be seen.

That's it for this time. next issue will have details on the "Wrestling Barometer" plus tourney results and more. Hope you join us. Bye.

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